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## NEWS RELEASE

### “New Access Restrictions to Benton County Facilities”

March 19, 2020

Benton County government remains open to serve our residents during this public health emergency. However, we are restricting public access in certain areas. The County urges customers and clients to interact with us by phone, email or online whenever possible. Starting today, the following public access restrictions are in place:

- The Sheriff’s Office lobby is closed except for Jail visiting, which is still permitted. All other access to the Sheriff’s Office must be by appointment only. Call 320.968.7201 to arrange an appointment. The Sheriff’s office will not accept in-person applications for “permit to carry.” Forms for permit to carry can be obtained from the County website <https://www.co.benton.mn.us/237/Forms>. The Sheriff’s Office will be installing a drop box for applications soon.
- Public access to offices in the Government Center in Foley is restricted and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Our main public entrance at 531 Dewey Street is open. Doors to Departments are closed to unrestricted public access. Customers will encounter a sign asking you to stop and call the Department you wish to see. Numbers to each Department are posted. A face-to-face meeting can be arranged if acceptable to both parties in the County Board Room. These restrictions affect the Land Services Department, Auditor-Treasurer, Department of Development and County Administrator (Veterans Services Officer and Human Resources included).
- The County’s DMV Office remains closed. We do not have an estimated date to re-open.

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